

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018KE509
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Naionra Ui Shionnaigh
-------------------------	-----------------------

Address of Service:	Melitta Road, Kildare, Co. Kildare
----------------------------	------------------------------------

Eircode:	R51 CX64
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Suzanne Fox
-------------------------------------	-------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	10/02/2025
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare
---	---

Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
----------------------------------	---------

Title:	Early Years Inspector
---------------	-----------------------

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of service

Naíonra Úi Shionnaigh is a privately owned sessional service located within Gaelscoil Mhic Aodha in Kildare Town, Co Kildare. The service provides a play based sessional educational preschool service through the Irish language. It is registered for children aged 3 to 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme and is registered to operate from 8.45am-11:45pm and 11.50am to 2.50pm Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year. There is one large preschool room available to the children with an outdoor area to the front of the premises.

Staffing

There were three adults employed to work with pre-school children including the registered provider. Adults employed to work with pre-school children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels

Regulation 16 – Information and Records

Regulation 19 – Health, Welfare and Development of the Child

Regulation 23 – Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

Regulation 26 – Fire Records

however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations 15 and 16.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Additional Information

A referral was sent to the Registration office with regards to the service operating outside its registration status. See non-compliance under Regulation 8.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
The registered provider failed to notify the Agency in writing that they were accommodating children under the age of three years in the service contrary to their current approved registration. The service opening hours are also outside the current registration status. The service is registered to operate from 8.45am to 11.45am in the morning however, the registered provider informed the inspector that the morning session runs from 8.30am to 11.30am.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A change in circumstance form was submitted 24th February to amend the opening times and age range from 3-6 years to 2-6 years. This was actioned today 20th March.

Supporting documentation submitted

Confirmation email that the change had been approved.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents have been reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 8.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

(a) consideration of references from the person’s past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,

(b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,

(c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and

(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

The inspection focused on the recruitment records of all staff who worked in the service.

(2)

(a)(b)

Of the six references required four written and validated references were available from a past employer. A further two written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults.

(d) International Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived outside of the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4) Records were available detailing the required qualifications for all staff members.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(3)
The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were sixteen children present in the service being supervised by three adults during the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1)
A sample of six records were reviewed by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (i) of the above Regulation for all of the records reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

- (b)
Two records did not contain the date the children started in the service.
- (h)
Two records did not contain a record of immunisations for two children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All children's records have been checked and amended where necessary to reflect the missing information.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of amended documentation sent to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 15.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)

- (h) A written record was available detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
- (i) A staffing roster was available in the service on the day of inspection.
- (k) A sample of eight accident and incident records were reviewed and were signed by staff and parents and completed appropriately.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and the snack was provided by the parents or guardians of the children. A variety of foods were provided to the children including fruit, dairy products and sandwiches. Drinking water was available to children throughout the session.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Children's noses were cleaned as required.

Staff were observed encouraging children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before snack.

The children spent the morning engaging in activities together including building, playdough and imaginative play games. An emergent curriculum was evident in the service. Children's interests were clearly incorporated into the activities and interest areas for example staff stated the children had developed an interest in teeth. The staff had developed curriculum around this topic including sugar content in foods to encourage positive dental hygiene and healthy eating. Ongoing observations and assessments were documented which informed curriculum planning.

The atmosphere in the care room was calm, friendly and supportive. The staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children by using soft vocal tones, listening attentively and offering praise and encouragement. Staff spoke in both English and Irish to the children to encourage language development. Staff were observed to be responsive to the children providing assistance as required.

There was a large playroom available to the children. Low level tables and chairs were provided to meet the children's age. All toys and activities were accessible on low level shelving.

The children accessed the outdoor play area on the day of inspection which consisted of an enclosed area to the side of the school where children were observed to play games with their peers and staff.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

Access to the service was secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured, and cables were out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Children washed hands before their snack and after using the toilet. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available to the children along with liquid soap and paper towels. Pedal bins were available throughout the service. All perishable food items were refrigerated when the children arrived at the service.

Fire Safety:

The emergency exit was unobstructed. Evidence of regular recorded fire drills was observed by the inspector.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) Two staff with current first aid responder training was available to the children throughout the inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The first aid box was available for use at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 9th December 2024.
- (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced during March 2024 and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the 7th January 2025.